

Pacific Commercial Advertiser

A MORNING PAPER.

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THE PRESSING QUESTIONS OF HAWAII.

Secretary Straus will hear the main question in Hawaii described by one party as labor and by the other as land. Both questions are so important, that they belong side by side; they are inter-related, and the proper settlement of one can not cure the ills of Hawaii without the proper settlement of the other.

Apparently, the need of labor in the cane fields is being fairly well met. There are thousands of laborers here, more are coming from Japan, and some are being brought from Europe. Doubtless, with the full protection on the mainland frontiers from contraband Japanese which is being organized, Hawaii's Asiatic labor supply will increase rather than diminish. It is of first importance that nothing shall happen to cut off the European labor supply and that Congress shall amend the immigration law in our behalf.

It is pilikia with problem number two, the land question. Little has yet been officially done to carry out the policy of President Roosevelt for the development of Hawaii in the "traditional American way;" for getting farmers on the land not needed for sugar, and to save Hawaii from the fate described in the President's message to Congress—a Territory in which "a governing class of rich planters shall exist by means of coolie labor." The subject is one which many approach with dread. This is a conservative place and old-timers naturally cling to the old order. Would the farmer, if he came, draw on the planters' labor supply? If so, he must be kept out. Would he create a demand for land so as to keep plantations from staying on the government domain at a nominal price? If so, away with him. Two or three years ago the Hunker opposition here expressed itself in doubts that anything salable—always excepting sugar—could be grown on this soil; but since then the enormous development of the pineapple industry and the splendid prospects of rubber, sisal and tobacco, have made crops for the farmer and driven the opposition back to other arguments. The finishing blow to the one-crop idea was given by the planter who testified before the tax commission not long ago that pineapple land stood at a greater valuation than sugar land.

The simple, everyday truth of the situation is that sugar uses but 200,000 acres of land out of a total of about 4,250,000 acres, enough of which latter is arable to support as many farmers as there are planters and field hands combined; that the utilization of the surplus land by farmers would treble the export returns of Hawaii as well as steady the electorate and give deep rootage to American ideas; that in such event Hawaii would keep its prosperity even if, by the admission of Cuba to the Union and the passage of a Philippine free trade bill, sugar should cease to yield a fair profit to local growers; that American farmers, holding the land, would simplify the question of defense and create taxable values by means of which there would be more schools, better roads, an increased population in towns, more villages, a greater commerce and vastly more money in circulation.

That, in brief, is the argument for the American farmer in Hawaii. There is land in plenty, there is a growing demand for its diversified crops, the farmer is needed to save the Territory to American ideas. He means future safety and prosperity. Without him the land must become entirely feudal and un-American.

Secretary Straus will hear much to the contrary, but he will not be deceived by it. He will see that there is a way to get over every obstacle so far named and that, the President is right in saying that Hawaii can be reclaimed and made typically as well as usefully American. Perhaps some help from Congress may be needed, but there is nothing in the way that can not be overcome.

FOR CLEAN BARBER SHOPS.

The regulation of barber shops, as directed under the law by the Board of Health, may be a measure aimed at the Asiatic places but it is none the less commendable on that account. There are few if any barber shops here that take the trouble to keep clean in the way laid down by the letter of the law. For instance, an uncleaned lather brush is used over and over again; likewise unsterilized brushes and razors; while nobody thinks of cleansing the powder puff or the alum block. Hereafter sterilization will be the rule, neither puff nor sponge may be used at all, and alum, where applied to cuts, must be in pulverized or liquid form only.

A law of this sort is needed in Hawaii more perhaps, than in any other part of the United States, because of the nature of the population. The great bulk of our people come from the lower classes of many nations, the transmittable skin and blood diseases of which range from impetigo contagiosa to much graver maladies. It can not be shown how much damage the barber shops, particularly the Asiatic ones, are doing, but it is fair to infer that for a great deal of the communicable sickness, of a certain sort, they are responsible.

The new law, as we say, is excellent, but what of its enforcement? Is it to become nugatory like the law against promiscuous spitting? Much will depend upon the ability of the Board of Health to provide inspectors and the willingness of the patrons of barber shops to enter complaints when they know the law to have been violated.

THE GIFT TO CROMER.

If Abraham Lincoln had lived to go out of office in the natural way, Congress would not have voted him a penny, other than his salary, in appreciation of his services. He would have returned to private life as Washington and Jefferson did, to take pot luck. Grant, who saved the Union, got the Presidency at a salary equal to one day's income of John D. Rockefeller, but at a later period he had to pawn his jewelry and war trophies with Wm. H. Vanderbilt, to meet a past due note.

They do these things better abroad. The other day the British Parliament voted Lord Cromer the sum of \$250,000 in appreciation of the work he had done in Egypt for the British Empire. Lord Cromer had already drawn a larger salary than the President of the United States receives, and had been granted titular honors and immunities; but that did not interfere with a final recognition commensurate with the dignity of his office and the breadth of his administrative labors.

The American temper will not stand the strain of propositions like this and would begrudge a gift of \$5000 to anybody; yet it is easy to see great national advantages in a judicious system of public gratuities. It is difficult now to get the best brains into statesmanship because of the glittering lure of business; or, if the best brains are procured, it is hard to keep them in official service for any great length of time. But if a first-class man felt sure of being treated as Lord Cromer has been, he would not be so likely to hesitate about making public service his profession.

Senator Foraker's anti-Taft letter did not stem the Ohio tide and the big Secretary of War got the endorsement of the Republican State Committee. The next fight will be to get a convention endorsement; but with the influence of the President exerted for Taft, it is fairly certain that Foraker will be beaten all along the line and that Taft will have the solid vote of Ohio. Foraker is popular at home, as Roscoe Conkling used to be, but the Republicanism of Ohio, like that of New York, is too deeply and sincerely felt to enable a leader who is fighting a Republican national administration to get much of a following.

Mr. and Mrs. Longworth are welcome here for their own sakes as well as in respect to the President. They have already been here and are personally known and liked. We do not doubt that they will find Hawaii as pleasant as they anticipated and that they will come again sometime and bring father.

The militia was out to greet the Governor but for some reason the Katzenjammer band did not play Herr Berger's celebrated anthem, "Carter has come, Carter has come."

JAPANESE WILL PETITION ISHII

To Work Against Restriction Upon Immigration—Mr. Yoshie's Game.

The Japanese Hotelkeepers' Association is going to present a petition to Commissioner Ishii, asking him to endeavor to have the provision in the new immigration law, prohibiting the admission of Japanese to the mainland on passports issued to Hawaii, repealed by Congress. It will be framed in the same manner as Mr. Nagoro's petition lately presented to President Roosevelt.

Commissioner Ishii was to visit Ewa and Wai'alua yesterday but the plan was changed and he went to Waipahu, Wahiawa and Wai'alua. He was to have returned to town last night, but may have stayed over at Haleiwa. The commissioner was accompanied by Consul Genetiv of Saito, J. K. Ozawa and representatives of the Japanese Merchants' Association.

K. Ono has received a letter from his friend at Vancouver saying that Mr. Yoshie, who passed through here a short time ago, had entered into an agreement with certain Canadian capitalists for the supply of five thousand Japanese laborers.

Mr. Yoshie, the writer says further, is opposed to the immigration of Japanese to Canada from Hawaii and has been sending misleading information to Honolulu so that the emigration from Hawaii might be stopped. While in Japan he had made arrangements to get laborers from there direct.

ALASKA-YUKON MAN HERE FOR EXHIBITS

Thomas J. Murray of Seattle is here to stir up an interest in the Alaska-Yukon Exposition, which is to take place in 1909 at the Puget Sound metropolis. He will see the officials and business men and find out what Hawaii is likely to do in the way of an exhibit, if anything. Mr. Murray says that great interest is felt by Seattle in the trade of these islands and that steamship connection between the two points is only a matter of a short time.

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